State Of South Dakota

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION FOR VALOR

Office Of The Governor

On the afternoon of March 9, 1981, a car carrying Allan and Erna Lang and their son Danny plunged off the Phantom Canyon Road in a mountainous area near Victor, Colorado. Danny, only five years old, was thrown from the rolling vehicle. He landed in a precarious place on the side of the mountain, suffering a broken leg, a broken neck, and severe internal injuries. Gabe Mapili and the other members of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology track team immediately stopped at the scene of the tragic accident. Amidst sub-freezing temperatures and falling snow, the team members quickly and cleverly improvised a stretcher using jumper cables, car floor mats, and pine boughs. Through rocks and trees, they formed a human chain of life down the side of the mountain to the spot where Danny lay helpless in the snow. The members of the track team gently passed Danny from hand to hand back up the mountain to the road above. Professional emergency medical help soon arrived, and a MEDEVAC helicopter flew Danny to a Colorado Springs hospital. Today, doctors say that Danny is making a full and complete recovery. The Colorado Highway Patrol, after investigating the accident, has officially acknowledged that the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology track team members are responsible for saving Danny's life. Basic to the beliefs and values of South Dakotans is the credo that every challenge is an opportunity. Many people are willing to serve. Several people are ready to serve. But a lucky few are actually called upon to serve their fellow human beings in situations where life and death are so crucially balanced. It is indeed fitting that we recognize and salute Gabe Mapili and the other members of the track team because their behavior exemplifies what each and every South Dakotan hopes and wishes he had done on that spring afternoon in Colorado.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby publicly proclaim to all South Dakotans the valor of

GABE MAPILI

and the other members of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology track team for their demonstration of common human courage in the face of uncommon human peril.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of South Dakota,
in Pierre, the Capital City, this
Thirteenth Day of May, in the Year of Our
Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-One

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alice Kundert

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE APPEARING ON THIS SLIDE OF MICROFILM IS AN ACCURATE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AND WAS MICROFILMED IN THE REGULAR COURSE OF BUSINESS ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA COMPILED LAW 1-27-4. IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS USED FOR MICROFILMING OF THE ABOVE RECORDS WAS IN A MANNER AND ON MICROFILM WHICH MEET THE RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS FOR PERMANENT MICROGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS. REDUCTION 25 ROLL NO. 3 DATE MICROFILMED 2-7-84
CAMERA OPERATOR